

# Towngate's Value of the month

## Optimism

### Definition

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is to try just one more time." – Thomas Edison

### What does optimism look like?

People who show optimism:

- Believe good things will happen.
- Make the most of any situation.
- See good through all the bad.

People who show optimism realise:

- If you believe good things will happen, they will eventually.
- Making the most of any situation helps you to stay positive.
- When you see the good through the bad, you become a happier person.

People show optimism by:

- Staying positive no matter how bad the situation is.
- Believing good will happen in the end.
- Not complaining and seeing good through all the bad.

### Related words or phrases:

Expectation      happiness  
idealism          enthusiasm  
confidence        cheerful  
brightness        hopefulness

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A story about **optimism** "Drake the Iguana"

Drake the Iguana lived between some rocks. Like all Iguanas, he loved to quietly sunbathe, laid out on some flat stone. He felt so relaxed doing so, that more than once he had fallen asleep, and that is exactly what happened on the day he lost his tail: some kids caught him, and Drake could only escape by losing his tail and running to hide. Shocked and frightened, he listened to how the children laughed at seeing his tail continue moving about, even though it was no longer attached to his body. After a while, they threw the tail away.

When the children had gone, Drake started looking everywhere for his tail, wanting to reattach it to its rightful place. However, the countryside was very big, and as much as he searched for it, Drake could find no sign of his tail. He left everything else in his life, devoting himself to the search. He forgot about his home, his possessions, and his friends. Days and months passed, and Drake kept looking, asking everyone he met whether they had seen his tail. One day, someone he asked surprisedly replied, -"Why do you need two tails?" Drake turned and saw that after so much time spent searching he had grown a new tail. What's more, his new tail looked stronger and better than his old tail. Seeing this, he realised how silly it had been to dedicate so much time to a problem for which there was no solution. Drake turned back and headed for home.

On his way home, he found his old tail at the side of the way. It was dry and dusty, and looked bad. However, Drake, having spent so much time looking for it, was happy to find it, and he picked it up and resumed his journey. Soon he met a frog. The frog, surprised, asked Drake: "Why are you carrying such a horrible old tail when you already have such a lovely tail of your own?" "Because I spent months looking for it," replied Drake. "You really spent months looking for something so ugly and dirty?" said the frog. -"Well," Drake explained, "previously it wasn't as ugly as this..." -"Hmm, but now it is, wouldn't you agree?... How strange you Iguanas are!" said the frog before jumping off into the distance.

The frog was right. Drake still thought of his tail as though it was the same tail he used to have, but in reality, it was now disgusting. Now Drake understood, so he decided to drop his old tail there, leaving with it all his past worries. As he continued his journey, all he took with him were thoughts of the future.

The End.